

Washington, DC - Today Congressman Steve King released the following statement regarding the announcement made today that President Obama's forthcoming FY2013 budget proposal will remove the F-16s from the Iowa Air National Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing based in Des Moines.

"Today we learned that big changes may be in store for the mission of the Air Guard in Des Moines. I am very concerned about the impact that this proposal could have on the Iowa Air Guard, and I am frustrated that the Air Force has left us searching for answers as to why a unit that has one of the highest levels of mission readiness, one of the lowest military personnel costs, and some of the most experienced personnel in the Air Guard has been singled out to lose its fighters. The Air Force and the White House need to provide us with answers about the rationale used to justify this move. It appears that a true cost-benefit analysis was not used here, but if the goal is to save the taxpayers money, we should be building up the Guard, not stripping it down. Every dollar invested in the Air National Guard is used as efficiently as possible, and the structure of the Guard allows every federal dollar to be leveraged to its maximum effect," said King.

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